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SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-seventh year

Letter dated 17 March 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the enclosed statement by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 69 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Peter HOHENFELLNER
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Austria
to the United Nations

* A/47/50.

ANNEX

Statement issued at Ljubljana on 23 January 1992 by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia concerning the independence and international recognition of the Republic of Slovenia

With the international recognition by a number of States and with the further recognitions which will follow, the Republic of Slovenia joins the international community of sovereign States as an international legal entity, with all the rights and responsibilities of a sovereign State.

Deriving from the right of the Slovene nation to self-determination, based on the principles of international law and the Constitution of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia, the people of the Republic of Slovenia decided by absolute majority of votes at a Plebiscite held on 23 December 1990, that they would form an independent and sovereign State of the Republic of Slovenia in which to conduct their future life.

In order to resolve in a peaceful way the profound and long-lasting constitutional crisis of the former Yugoslavia, the Republic of Slovenia, in accordance wih the then valid Constitution of the SFRY, put forward a number of proposals for a democratic and agreed solution. These proposals were, however, rejected by the other republics, with the exception of the Republic of Croatia, and by the institutions of former Yugoslavia.

In accordance with the plebiscite decision, on 25 June 1991 the Republic of Slovenia declared a sovereign and independent State. In spite of this declaration, Slovenia was prepared to resolve by agreement and in a peaceful way all questions raised by the new situation. Instead of an agreed solution to such questions, Slovenia was subjected to aggression launched and conducted by federal administration. Slovenia defended her sovereignty and, after the mediation of the European Community, accepted a three-month moratorium on the implementation of the terms of its independence. The Slovene question was thus internationalized.

Even before the achievement of international recognition, the Republic of Slovenia, bearing in mind the importance and universal character of the Organization of the United Nations, informed the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Security Council in letters from the President of the Presidency, Mr. Milan Kučan, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Dimitrij Rupel, of its views on the causes of the Yugoslav crisis and possible paths to its peaceful resolution. The Republic of Slovenia thus, as a future member of the world organization, even at that stage of searching for resolution of the conflict on the territory of former Yugoslavia, tried to make its contribution to the efforts of the Organization of the United Nations to find a peaceful solution to the Yugoslav crisis and permanently assure peace and security in this part of Europe.

The conflicts on the territory of former Yugoslavia have already claimed too many human lives and caused untold material damage. Recovery process will last a long time and will demand additional efforts on the part of the newly established States on the territory of former Yugoslavia, as well as the understanding and assistance of the international community, for them to realize their development plans. The European Community and its members, as well as the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and the United Nations, all of them have expended great efforts in the search for a solution to the crisis on the territory of former Yugoslavia. First results on the way to a final and peaceful political solution of this crisis are already evident.

The Republic of Slovenia accepts the resolutions of the Security Council devoted to the resolution of the Yugoslav crisis and fully supports the efforts of the Organization of the United Nations towards the deployment of peace-keeping forces in the areas of conflict, in the expectation that it will enable the further search for a political solution in the frame of the Conference on Yugoslavia in Brussels. The Republic of Slovenia is also prepared to play an active role in the future at the conference table, where it has been cooperating to date and to which it has itself proposed a number of concrete steps towards the solution of the Yugoslav crisis.

The sovereignty and independence of Slovenia was never contested at the Conference on Yugoslavia. It was also accepted by the European Community as sponsor to the Conference.

The Republic of Slovenia had to demonstrate for its international recognition that, in addition to general conditions based on the principles of international law, it also fulfilled special conditions which the European Community adopted in the Declaration on Yugoslavia and in the Guidelines for the recognition of new States in Eastern Europe and the USSR, at the session of the Council of Ministers of the European Community on 16 December 1991. The Arbitration Commission of the Conference on Yugoslavia on 11 January 1992 adopted the opinion that the Republic of Slovenia met all the required conditions for international recognition.

On this basis, the member States of the European Community accepted on 15 January 1992 unanimous decision on the recognition of the Republic of Slovenia, in which they were quickly followed by almost all other European, as well as some other States.

The Republic of Slovenia also meets all the conditions for acceptance into the Organization of the United Nations, in accordance with the United Nations Charter. It is willing consistently to respect this Charter, as well as other international instruments and principles of international law. As a future member of the world organization it is ready to make its contribution to the preservation of international peace and security, and to the achievement of the other aims of the Organization of the United Nations. In due course, the Republic of Slovenia will submit the application for membership in the United Nations.